THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Estimate for Rs. 23.88 crorcs is sanctioned by Visakhapatnam Port Trust Board for construction of Second Multipurpose Berth by extending the Multiple Berth in Visakhapatnam Outer Harbour. Extension of berth proposed is 167.0. M to make total length of berth to- 450.0 M to enable handling vessels upto 1,00,000 DWT requiring 16.5 M dredged depth or two vessels of smaller capacity.

(c) Target date for completion is March, 2001.

Four-Laning of Delhi-Ajmer National Highway

562. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMAD KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be plea.scd to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the traffic on Delhi-Ajmer National Highway is very heavy;

(b) whether it is also a fact that serious accidents occur on this highway owing to narrow roads;

(c) whether the Ministry intends to convert it into four way highway to avoid these accidents; and

(d) if so, by when; and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The portion of National Highway No. 8 from Delhi to Gurgaon is already four lancd. However, from Gurgaon (in Haryana) to Kotputli (in Rajasthan), the work of four-Ianing is in progress and is targeted to be completed by March, 2001. From Kotputli to Amcr Section of the road, four-laning works stand completed and Jaipur bypass is under construction. It is proposed to upgrade the section from Jaipur to Kishangarh into six lane carriageway under Private Sector participation on EOT basis.

Detailed engineering and project preparation has also been taken up for upgradation of Kishangarh—Ajmcr Section.

Declaration of New National Highways in Tamil Nadu

563. SHRI V.P. DURAISAMY: Will the Mini.stcr of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whethet it is a fact that the State Government of Tamil Nadu have sent proposals for declaring some roads as the new National Highways;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the length in Kms. of these roads and the cost involved in declaring these roads; and

(c) by which date these proposals would be cleared by his Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a)
Yes, Sir.

(b) In January 2(MX), 8 proposals with an aggregate length of 941.7 kms. have been received from the State Government of Tamil Nadu. About 1413 crores would be required for upgrading these roads to National Highways standards.

(c) No definite time frame can be given .since the proposals would be considered keeping in view the *inter-se* priority with other proposals received from other State Government and subject to availability of funds.

Vacancies and Promotion of Employees in IRCC

564. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be plea.scd to state:

(a) whether Indian Road Construction Corporation has promoted employees without vacancies and on the other hand has not promoted eligible employees against vacancies during 1991-93;

(b) if so, the categories of employce»tadrc who were given benefit of promotion and those discriminated against and under which rules these have been done separately;